



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Office of Steven K. Reviczky  
Commissioner*



### **Raised Bill No. 5310, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S SEED LAW**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports Raised Bill No. 5310, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S SEED LAW. The existing seed law has become difficult to administer, because terminology, technology, and science have all changed significantly since the law was written in 1963. Some examples:

- The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has received consumer complaints about flower seed packets that have failed to produce any live plants. Flowers, however, are not covered in the present Connecticut Seed Law.
- The present law does not allow additional scientifically proven techniques to be used in germination testing.
- Current technology makes it is possible to label packages with actual seed counts, which is much more useful information for the consumer than seed weight, but the present law still requires net weight.
- The current law's lack of distinction between cool-season and warm-season grasses makes it difficult for companies supplying turf-type products to comply with its requirements.
- Companies supplying seed for native restoration of natural ecosystems are at a significant disadvantage because the existing law's required germination testing shows their seed to have very low germination rates. This discourages potential buyers even though it is normal for native grass species to take three or more years to germinate.
- Consumers could benefit from tree and tree seed labels that include species-specific information about location, elevation, soil type, and climate suitability.

This proposal updates the current seed law's 50-year-old standards with those from the Recommended Uniform State Seed Law (RUSSL) developed by the Association of American Seed Control Officials and amended in 2011. Not only do these standards account for current technology and terminology, they are consistent with those in other states.